United Nations S/PRST/2012/23

Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6852nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 31 October 2012, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Women and peace and security", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitments to the full and effective implementation of resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), and 1960 (2010) and recalls all statements of its President on Women and Peace and Security as reiterating the Council's commitments.

"The Security Council urges all parties to fully comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women of 1979 and the Optional Protocol thereto of 1999 and strongly encourages States that have not ratified or acceded to the Convention and Optional Protocol to consider doing so.

"The Security Council underlines the primary role of national Governments, affected by armed conflict, to enhance participation of women in prevention and resolution of conflict and in peacebuilding within the framework of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. The Council further stresses that United Nations entities should continue to support and supplement, as appropriate, efforts of national Governments in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

"The Security Council takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on Women and Peace and Security (S/2012/732) for the purpose of implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and particularly welcomes its call for enhanced participation, representation and involvement of women in prevention and resolution of armed conflict and in peacebuilding, as well as a stronger commitment to address challenges to such engagement of women at all levels.

"The Security Council welcomes the role of UN Women in contributing to the implementation of resolutions on Women and Peace and Security. The Council welcomes briefings by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN Women. The Council notes with satisfaction the increased coordination and coherence in policy and programming for women and girls within the United Nations system, welcoming efforts to avoid duplication and overlap since the creation of UN Women.

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"The Security Council recognizes the contributions of civil society, including women's organizations, through informal interactions with members of the Council at headquarters and during Council field missions.

"The Security Council recognizes the need for more systematic attention to the implementation of women peace and security commitments in its own work to ensure the enhancement of women's engagement in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding and to continue to integrate appropriate gender perspectives into the mandates of relevant United Nations peacekeeping missions as well as in other relevant thematic areas of peace and security.

"The Security Council welcomes the contribution of Gender Advisers to the implementation of resolutions on women peace and security by providing training and awareness raising of United Nations peacekeepers and assisting in capacity building activities of national governments, as well as those of civil society. In this regard, the Security Council underlines the need for continued, appropriate and regular training for Gender Advisers.

"The Security Council reiterates its call to deploy Women Protection Advisers to peacekeeping missions. The Council stresses the need to ensure that gains made in the protection and promotion of women's and girls' rights and empowerment are sustained during United Nations mission drawdown and transitions.

"The Security Council takes note of the important role that civil society, including women's organizations, can play in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, peacebuilding and post-conflict situations and encourages the international community, regional organizations and concerned Member States to promote their active engagement and effective participation in a variety of roles, as appropriate, with a view to the implementation of 1325 (2000).

"The Council welcomes the efforts of Member States to implement resolution 1325 (2000) at the national level, including the development of national action plans or other national-level strategies, and encourages Member States to continue to pursue such implementation.

"The Security Council recognizes the important engagement by men and boys as partners in promoting women's participation in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, peacebuilding and post-conflict situations.

"The Security Council welcomes the Secretary-General's call upon his Special Envoys and mediators, as well his senior representatives in United Nations mission context, to regularly consult with civil society, including women's organizations, as well as with women and girls from affected communities, enabling them to actively engage in all stages of peace processes.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls in the context of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and other relevant Security Council resolutions. The Security Council acknowledges that human rights of women and girls are at particular risk during armed conflict and post-conflict situations and notes that civil society members working on women's human

rights issues may be targeted in a number of these situations. The Council urges concerned Member States to pay special attention to addressing these risks.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of assisting Member States in promoting women's full and equal participation in post-conflict electoral processes and constitutional reform. The Council encourages concerned Member States conducting these electoral processes to continue their efforts, with support from United Nations entities, to address the gender dimension in all phases of electoral processes, noting that specific attention must be paid to women's safety prior to, and during, elections.

"The Security Council underscores the need for Member States in post-conflict situations, in consultation with, inter-alia, civil society, including women organizations, to address the specific requirements and priorities of women and girls in their national strategies to improve their socioeconomic conditions, participation in income generating activities, and their access to education and basic services.

"The Security Council stresses the need for continued efforts to address obstacles in women's access to justice in conflict and post-conflict settings, including through gender-responsive legal, judicial and security sector reform and other mechanisms.

"The Security Council reiterates its strong condemnation of all violations of applicable international law committed against women and girls, including sexual and gender based violence and killing and maiming, in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and urges the complete cessation by all parties of such acts with immediate effect. The Security Council also urges Member States to bring to justice those responsible for crimes of this nature.

"The Security Council notes that the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern committed against women and girls has been strengthened through the work of the International Criminal Court, ad hoc and mixed tribunals, as well as specialized chambers in national tribunals. The Council reiterates its intention to continue forcefully to fight impunity and uphold accountability with appropriate means.

"The Security Council draws attention to the importance of a comprehensive approach to transitional justice in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, encompassing the full range of judicial and non-judicial measures, as appropriate.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General in his next annual report to give an update on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) to include, inter alia, achievements, gaps and challenges to the implementation of the resolution as well as this statement of its President."

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Security Council

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19 November 2012

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 6865th meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 November 2012, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reaffirms its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and recognizes the primary responsibility of States in the eradication of piracy.

"The Security Council continues to be gravely concerned by the threat that piracy and armed robbery at sea pose to international navigation, the safety of commercial maritime routes, and the security and economic development of States in the regions concerned, as well as to the safety and welfare of seafarers and other persons, including through their being taken as hostages, and the increasing violence employed by pirates and persons involved in piracy and armed robbery at sea. The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms hostage taking and the use of violence against hostages, and calls upon States to also cooperate, as appropriate, to secure the early release of hostages, including through sharing of information and intelligence.

"The Security Council reaffirms its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of States concerned.

"The Security Council stresses the need for a comprehensive response by the international community to repress piracy and tackle its underlying causes for a durable eradication of piracy and armed robbery at sea and illegal activities connected therewith.

"The Security Council invites all States, the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization and other relevant international organizations and agencies to adopt or recommend, as appropriate, measures to prevent hijackings, measures to protect the interest and welfare of seafarers who are victims of pirates, both during their captivity through the provision of medical and other humanitarian assistance, as well as after their release from captivity, including their post-incident care and reintegration into society, and in this regard takes note of the proposals for a hostage support program developed by the United Nations — UNPOS and UNODC.

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"The Security Council reaffirms that international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, in particular its articles 100 to 107, sets out the legal framework applicable to combating piracy and armed robbery at sea, as well as other ocean activities and calls upon States to take appropriate steps under their national law to facilitate, in accordance with international law, the apprehension and prosecution of those who are alleged to have committed acts of piracy, including the financing or facilitation of such acts, also taking into account other relevant international instruments consistent with the Convention.

"The Security Council reiterates its call upon States, particularly concerned States, to criminalize piracy under their domestic law and to favourably consider the prosecution of suspected, and imprisonment of convicted pirates and their facilitators and financiers ashore, consistent with applicable international law including international human rights law.

"The Security Council urges States and international organizations, as well as the private sector to share evidence, information and intelligence, as appropriate, for anti-piracy law enforcement purposes, including for ensuring effective prosecution of suspected, and imprisonment of convicted, pirates, and encourages existing and future initiatives in this regard.

"The Security Council welcomes the fact that effective counter-piracy measures through increased national, bilateral and multilateral initiatives as well as regional cooperative mechanisms have led to a substantial reduction in the number of successful piracy-related attacks in different regions, and recognizes the need for continuing efforts with these counter-piracy measures as these gains are reversible as long as the conditions ashore are conducive to pirate activity at sea.

"The Security Council welcomes the commitments made for continued efforts to repress piracy, including efforts by bilateral donors and regional and international organisations to strengthen the capacity of the relevant States to counter piracy and armed robbery at sea including through prosecution of those responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea and imprisonment of convicted pirates, and in this connection welcomes the important contribution of the Trust Fund Supporting Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia and the IMO Djibouti Code of Conduct Trust Fund and urges both States and non-state sectors affected by piracy, most notably the international shipping community, to contribute to them. The Council also notes the work of the International Piracy Ransoms Task Force to explore options for dealing with the issue of ransom payments to pirates, recognizing its importance.

"The Security Council stresses that the coordination of efforts at the regional level is necessary for the development of a comprehensive strategy to counter the threat of piracy and armed robbery at sea, in order to enable the prevention and disruption of such criminal activities, and also notes the need for international assistance as part of a comprehensive strategy to support national and regional efforts to assist the Member States undertaking steps to address piracy and armed robbery at sea and the illegal activities connected therewith.

"The Security Council reiterates the urgent need to investigate and prosecute not only suspects captured at sea, but also anyone who incites or intentionally facilitates piracy operations, including key figures of criminal networks involved in piracy who illicitly plan, organize, facilitate, or finance and profit from such attacks.

"The Security Council encourages member States to continue to cooperate with each other in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, underlines the primary responsibility of Somali authorities in the fight against piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, and requests the Somali authorities, with assistance from the Secretary-General and relevant UN entities, to pass a complete set of counter-piracy laws without further delay, and to declare an Exclusive Economic Zone in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

"The Security Council commends the efforts of the EU operation ATALANTA, North Atlantic Treaty Organization operations Allied Protector and Ocean Shield commanded by NATO member States, Combined Maritime Forces' Combined Task Force 151 commanded by Denmark, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Turkey, Thailand and the United States, and other States acting in their national capacity in cooperation with Somali authorities and each other, to suppress piracy and to protect vulnerable ships transiting through the waters off the coast of Somalia, and appreciates the efforts of Member States, including China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, which have deployed ships and/or aircraft in the region, as stated in the Secretary-General's report (S/2012/783).

"The Security Council welcomes the initiatives already taken by States and regional organizations, including Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) and the Maritime Organization for West and Central Africa (MOWCA), to enhance maritime safety and security in the Gulf of Guinea.

"The Security Council also appreciates the efforts of States in the region of the Gulf of Guinea, and encourages international partners to provide support to States and regional organizations for the enhancement of their capabilities to counter piracy and armed robbery at sea in the region, including their maritime capability to conduct regional patrols and operations in accordance with applicable law.

"The Security Council commends the continued efforts of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) to coordinate international efforts in different aspects of the fight against piracy.

"The Security Council appreciates the assistance being provided by the United Nations through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UNDP and through other international organizations and donors, in coordination with the CGPCS, to enhance the capacity of the judicial and the corrections systems in Somalia, Kenya, the Republic of Seychelles and other States in the region to prosecute suspected, and imprison convicted pirates consistent with applicable international human rights law and encourages

coordination of United Nations actions, including those of its agencies, funds and programmes, in order to improve the effectiveness of international efforts.

"The Security Council emphasizes the importance of promptly reporting incidents to enable accurate information on the scope of the problem of piracy and armed robbery against ships and, in the case of armed robbery against ships, by affected vessels to the coastal State, underlines the importance of effective and timely information-sharing with States potentially affected by incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships, and takes note of the important role of the International Maritime Organization in this regard.

"The Security Council notes the adoption by the International Maritime Organization of guidelines to assist in the investigation of the crimes of piracy and armed robbery against ships, revised interim guidance to ship owners, ship operators and shipmasters on the use of Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP) on board ships in the high risk area, as well as the revised interim recommendations for flag States, port States and coastal States regarding the use of PCASP on board ships in the high risk area, and encourages flag States and port States to further consider the development of safety and security measures onboard vessels, including regulations for the deployment of PCASP on board ships through a consultative process, including through International Maritime Organization and International Standards Organization.

"The Security Council notes the request of some Member States on the need to review the boundaries of the High Risk Area on an objective and transparent basis taking into account actual incidents of piracy, noting that the high risk area is set and defined by the insurance and maritime industry.

"The Security Council takes note of the ongoing cooperation between the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea with respect to the compilation of national legislation on piracy, encourages countries that have not yet provided their legislation to do so, and notes that copies of national legislation received by the Secretariat have been placed on the website of the United Nations.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to include in his relevant reports to the Council the information concerning the implementation of this Presidential Statement, including any new information and observation, taking into account the work of relevant stakeholders, including regional Organizations, on possible ways to advance international efforts to combat the problem of piracy and armed robbery at sea and associated hostage taking."